Audit & Analysis Computer Environment (AACE)

The State Budget Office (SBO) continues its joint efforts with all state departments to upgrade and improve its financial management systems. SBO implemented a computer audit environment that allows users across state government to remotely connect and perform audit and analysis procedures. AACE provides OFM and internal auditors a means to enhance their auditing, monitoring and other reporting processes. This software support improves internal controls over financial and program activities of state government.

AACE was installed to provide state agency internal audit and finance staff access to the industry-leading audit software, Audit Command Language (ACL), enable easy access to all information systems maintained by the state, increase significant computing functionality to audit and analyze vast amounts of data, and allow user accessibility through the state's intranet via basic Web browser software application.

The OFM has provided, through ACL or internally developed programs, delivery of more than 1,500 contact hours of training for internal auditors on computer auditing and use of ACL. The OFM employs several staff who provide overall administration of the AACE system and provide ongoing consulting to internal auditors on the appropriate use of AACE audit technology.

This statewide internal control program project has resulted in departmental internal audit offices providing improved coverage of their department's business risks. This is especially relevant to financial activities and internal audits of select financial issues, via utilization of AACE software as an analytical tool. The AACE application is used by state agency internal audit and finance staff at all the state's departments to enhance statewide financial management practices, improve management's internal control evaluation practices, and improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of internal audit activities.